

29-UN3629C

4:2-4

NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

FOR APRIL 1985

Vol. 2, Number 4
May 1985

Nevada State Library

FEB 3 1986

RECEIVED

MAY 17 1985

Documents Section

Office of the
State Climatologist

Office:
226 Mackay Science
(702) 784-6921

Mail:
John W. James
State Climatologist
Dept. of Geography
University of Nevada
Reno, Nevada 89557

SYNOPSIS

April 1985 was one of the warmest and driest 4th months on record in Nevada with every climate station reporting well above normal temperatures, in many cases near record maxima for the month, and at Ely, Fallon, and Denio, the warmest daytime temperatures ever recorded so early in the year. At Reno for example, this was the 4th warmest April this century, exceeded only by April 1910, 1934, and 1939. The trace of moisture recorded there tied for the driest this century, with April 1959, 1962, and 1977. With the exception of Fallon, Searchlight and Las Vegas, precipitation was well below normal statewide. Even at the former two locations the entire month's total fell in one day during thundershowers.

TEMPERATURES

Nevada temperatures averaged from 3 to 7 degrees above normal for one of the warmest Aprils on record in the Silver State. Ely, Fallon and Denio, recorded the warmest daytime temperatures ever recorded so early in the year on the 14th, with 78, 90, and 85 degrees, respectively.

Greatest departures from normal were in the Northwest (Yerington and Incline +7.1, Fallon +6.9 and Reno and Virginia City +6.3 degrees), with the Southern 1/3 of the State averaging 3-5 degrees above normal (e.g. Beatty 8N +2.9°, Caliente +3.2° and Las Vegas +4.7°).

Preliminary data indicates that temperatures fell to 13° at Winnemucca Airport, 14° at Battle Mountain Airport and 16° at Manhattan, for the lowest reported readings. Laughlin logged the month's high with 103° on the 30th. In fact, 6 days during the month had maxima of 100° or more at that Colorado River location below Davis Dam.

With such mild temperatures for this Spring month, heating requirements were well below normal Statewide for the only month this Winter Season (October 1984 - April 1985). In fact, some locations had enough cooling degree days (CDD - when the average of the daily high and low temperature exceeds 65°) to call for the use of air conditioning. Laughlin topped the list with 235 CDD, followed by Boulder City (183), Las Vegas (143) and Desert Rock (48). These figures are all well above normal for April.

PRECIPITATION

Following the pattern that began in the North in December and in Southern Nevada in January, April precipitation was well below normal. The exceptions to this were unusual one day thunderstorms that brought all of Fallon's .79" and

Searchlight's .80" monthly totals. Also, the .31" total at Las Vegas, was .09" above normal. In the far North, on the Oregon border, Denio had near normal April precipitation with 1.16", for the wettest in Nevada this month. Several locations had either no precipitation or just a trace (e.g. Beatty 8N and Boulder City = 0, and Reno, Virginia City and Tonopah = T).

Snowfall was almost non-existent, even in the Lake Tahoe Basin portions of the Sierra Nevada, with 3" at both Daggett Pass and Glenbrook, far below the April normal.

SUNSHINE AND WIND

Sunshine was a little above normal in the Northeast, Central and Southern portions of the State (e.g. Ely 91% vs an average of 89% and Las Vegas 91% vs an average of 87%). In the Northwest it was a little cloudier than usual, where Reno for example had only 78% of the average sunshine compared to a normal of 81%.

Wind speeds were near normal Statewide, but did manage to reach 51 mph at Las Vegas on the 25th, and 62 mph on top of 9700 foot Slide Mountain near Reno on the 18th.

"WINTER" 1984-85

The period from October 1984 - April 1985 was much colder than normal, in fact one of the coldest "Winters" on record Statewide. The only month that averaged warmer than normal was April, with November being above normal only in the Northeast. Wildhorse Reservoir reached -35° in December, for one of Nevada's lowest temperatures in several years, and record or near record lows were recorded for the month at several locations during October, December, January and February.

It was also a "dry" winter, with only Southern Nevada, mainly due to an extremely wet December, and parts of the Northeastern 1/3 of the State, having above normal precipitation. The Western portion of Nevada was the driest area, with only about 3/4 of the normal amount of precipitation. The following table summarizes the wettest and driest weather reporting sites in Nevada, both for total precipitation and for % of normal for the period October 1984 - April 1985.

Highest Precipitation Totals

Incline	18.47"
Daggett Pass	15.47"
Glenbrook	11.94"
Virginia City	11.88"
Austin	9.40"

Lowest Precipitation Totals

Hawthorne	1.85"
Yerington	2.22"
Tonopah AP	2.29"
Las Vegas	3.20"
Fallon NAS	3.58"

Highest % of Normal Precipitation

Boulder City	125%
Las Vegas	124%
Ely	117%
Austin	116%
Winnemucca AP	114%

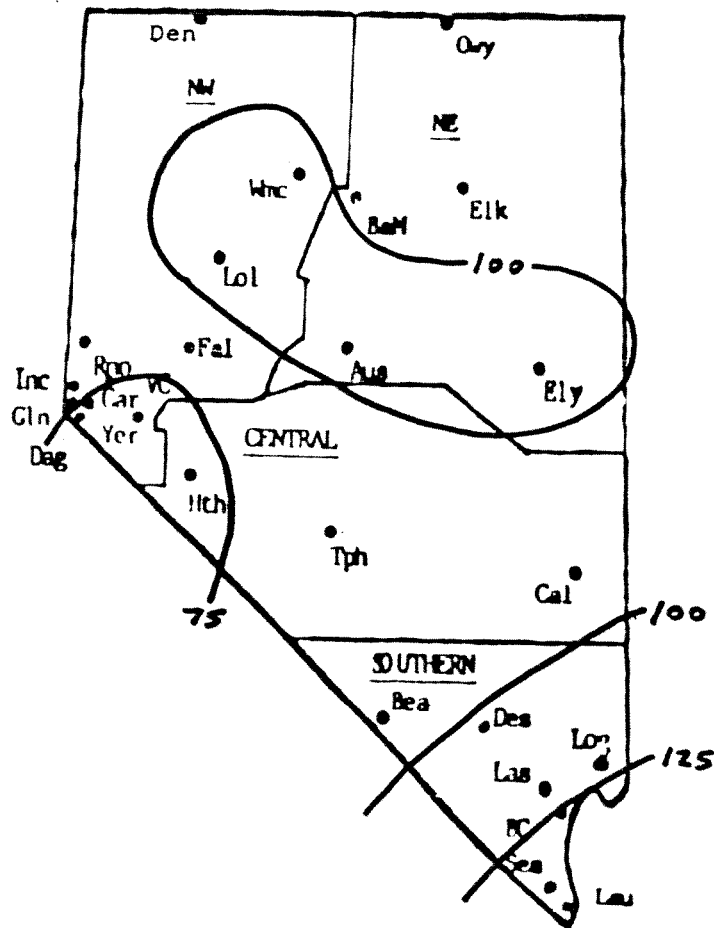
Lowest % of Normal Precipitation

Hawthorne	69%
Yerington	69%
Carson City	71%
Reno WSFO AP	78%
Glenbrook	79%

Even though precipitation was below normal in the Tahoe Basin, due to below normal temperatures, snowfall was a little above normal at some sites. The most snowfall reported from a daily observed site in Nevada during Winter 1984-85, was 185" at Incline, closely followed by 183" at nearby Daggett Pass. Glenbrook had 113", Austin 97", and Virginia City 87".

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

OCTOBER 1984 - APRIL 1985



NOTE: Our special thanks to the Reno National Weather Service Office, for supplying much of the basic climate data that is used to compile this report. Glenn Trapp, the Director of that office, as well as the NWS Area Manager for Nevada, has been a staunch supporter of the State Climatology program, and he and his staff have made it a pleasure to "spend time" in their facilities.

John W. James
State Climatologist for Nevada

APRIL 1985

PRELIMINARY NEVADA CLIMATE DATA

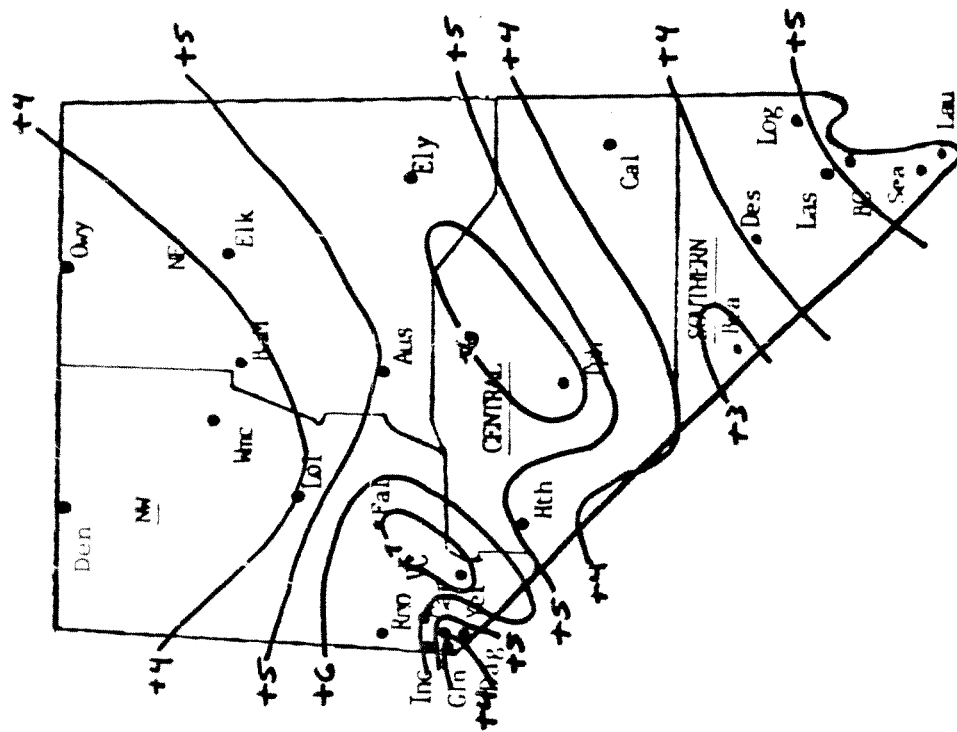
LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGHEST	LOWEST	HEATING		DEPART	PRECIP	GR.	
								DEGREE	DAYS			24 HR	SNOWFALL
(Base=65°)													
Northwest													
Carson City	4650'	68.2	34.3	51.3	+4.4	30th*	26th	399	-144	-	.10	17th	0
Daggett Pass	7380	56.8	31.6	44.2	-	30th	27th	622	-	-	.38	17th	3
Denio	4185	66.4	33.1	49.8	-	14th	26th	-	-	-	1.16	17th	T
Fallon NAS	3935	73.2	41.0	57.1	+6.9	14th	24th*	218	-	-	.79	17th	0
Glenbrook	6350	56.3	32.9	44.6	+3.3	30th*	26th*	584	-127	-	.60	17th	3
Incline	6525	60.8	32.8	46.8	+7.1	13th*	26th*	545	-	-	.20	17th	1
Lovelock	3975	70.1	33.3	51.7	+3.3	30th	24th	393	-105	-	.13	22nd	0
Reno WSFO AP	4405	69.9	35.5	52.7	+6.3	14th	26th	359	-199	-	T	25th*	T
Reno UNR	4550	69.7	38.6	54.2	-	14th	26th	-	-	-	T	25th	T
Virginia City	6340	61.8	41.0	51.4	+6.3	14th	26th	402	-195	-	T	21st	0
Winnemucca WSO AP	4295	68.7	29.0	48.9	+3.6	14th	26th	479	-112	-	.20	22nd	4
Yerington	4375	71.3	40.7	56.0	+7.1	14th	26th	308	-175	-	.16	18th	0
Northeast													
Austin	6605	62.9	34.1	48.5	+5.2	14th	26th	493	-143	-	.50	22nd	T
Battle Mtn. AP	4340	68.4	29.7	49.1	+3.3	30th*	24th	477	-99	-	.11	22nd	T

LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGHEST	LOWEST	HEATING DEGREE		DEPART	PRECIP	DEPART	GR.
								DAYS	DAYS				
(Base=65°)													
Elko	5075	64.4	31.6	48.0	+4.6	30th* 76	24th 21	505	-143	-.56	.23	22nd .20	1/2
Ely	6260	64.4	28.5	46.5	+5.6	14th 78	20th 16	548	-175	-.75	.17	22nd .12	1
Central													
Caliente	4400	71.7	36.5	54.1	+3.2	30th 83	1st 28	-	-	-.31	.44	19th .41	0
Hawthorne	4215	73.2	40.4	56.8	+4.8	14th 87	26th 27	248	-148	-.21	.20	18th .20	0
Tonopah AP	5425	70.6	38.2	54.4	+6.9	14th 81	26th 26	318	-207	-.39	T	27th T	0
Southern													
Beatty 8N	3550	78.3	42.6	60.5	+2.9	13th 89	21st 30	152	- 64	-.56	0	11th .05	0
Boulder City	2525	82.6	56.6	69.6	+5.5	15th 93	21st 43	45	- 84	-.36	0	18th .02	0
Desert Rock	3300	78.4	47.1	62.8	+4.3	14th 90	21st 36	107	-109	-	.02	18th .02	0
Las Vegas WSO AP	2160	81.9	54.4	68.2	+4.7	15th* 93	21st 46	41	- 90	+.09	.31	18th .09	0
Laughlin	550	89.2	55.6	72.4	-	30th 103	18th 40	9	-	-	.14	18th .14	0
Searchlight	3540	-	-	-	-	8th 88	18th 41	-	-	+.33	.80	18th .80	0

*Latest of more than one occurrence

DEPARTURE OF MEAN TEMPERATURE FROM NORMAL (F°)

APRIL 1985



PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

APRIL 1985

